



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **JACKSON PHYSICIAN, FLOWOOD MAN CONVICTED OF CHILD MOLESTATION**

*Maximum sentence for each count is 30 years in jail*

SHREVEPORT, La. – A Jackson, Miss., physician and a co-defendant were convicted here by a federal jury last Friday of molesting a 13-year-old boy, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

Dr. William Causey, 63, and Scott Hitt, 38, of Flowood, Miss., were convicted on three charges by a jury on the third day of deliberations. The two were convicted under a law making it a federal crime to transport a minor across a state line for sexual activity. ICE special agents and Rankin County and Flowood police authorities conducted the investigation into the illicit activities.

Causey and Hitt were accused of transporting a juvenile to Shreveport with the intent of having sex with the boy during the 2002 Independence Bowl. They both also face similar charges in Mississippi. Rankin County and Flowood police charged the two men in November 2003 with two counts of sexual battery against a 13-year-old boy.

“Sexual predators will be held accountable for their crimes,” said Michael A. Holt, ICE New Orleans special agent-in-charge. “ICE will continue to work aggressively with all law enforcement agencies to hold accountable those who prey on the most vulnerable in our society.” Holt heads the ICE Office of Investigations for a five-state area which includes: Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and Alabama.

Madison-Rankin County District Attorney David Clark led the initial investigation in Mississippi and also aided in the Louisiana investigation.

District Attorney Clark was in Shreveport for the closing arguments and remained there until the jury returned its verdict. "This is a case where a wealthy, powerful and influential doctor brutally preyed upon a weak 13-year-old [boy]," said Clark. "My office stood side-by-side with this weak child against them. As a result, they have been found guilty on three charges."

The two will be sentenced on the federal conviction in August. The maximum sentence for each count is 30 years in jail.

This investigation was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,300 individuals, including 26 in Mississippi and 22 in Louisiana.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*